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CORRESPONDENCE

This department welcomes comments on the policy or contents of this journal, corrections of errors on the general literature, questions, notices of historical discoveries, and other brief communications of general interest to the history of mathematics community.

JOURDAIN'S COPY OF WHITEHEAD AND RUSSELL'S PRINCIPIA MATHEMATICA

A COMMUNICATION FROM I. GRATTAN-GUINNESS
MIDDLESEX POLYTECHNIC AT ENFIELD, ENGLAND

Philip Jourdain attended Russell's lectures on mathematical logic of 1901-1902, and until his death in 1919 he conducted a considerable correspondence with Russell. I am preparing an edition of the surviving portions, which are mostly from the years 1902-1910. Unfortunately most other Jourdainiana is now lost; if any readers have come across any of his manuscript or correspondence, I should be interested to know.

After Jourdain's death most of his library was sold to Manchester University, but some parts went elsewhere, and for various reasons much of it now is dispersed. In 1967 the bookseller H.K. Elliott sold Jourdain's presentation set of the first edition of *Principia Mathematica*. The catalogue entry describes it as containing "numerous interesting manuscript notes throughout," which I can well believe; Jourdain was an extremely perceptive critic of Russell's work. Despite some enquiries by myself and especially by Dr. J.M. Rollett, the purchaser of this set has not been located. Elliott died in 1969 and his widow has no record of the transaction. If any reader happens to come across the set, I would be very glad to hear about it. First editions of *Principia Mathematica* are rare anyway, and Jourdain's set will probably have carried his bookplate.

OBITUARY NOTICES

Professor Mario Villa of Bologna died 16 November 1973.

Professor Imre Lakatos died on 2 February 1974.